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Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

G. C. Frost, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council

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Medical Officer of Health

1955

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :
A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (full time) :
THOMAS H. FARRELL, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., D.P.H.H. (Hons).

Additional Sanitary Inspector (full time) :
H. H. FORD, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Clerk to the Council :
S. E. WILKINSON

Chairman of Council :
G. E. A. RIDGWAY, J.P.

Highways Committee Chairman :
J. J. STALEY

Housing Committee Chairman :
W. J. C. BOWKER

To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1955.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population has increased from 6,550 in 1954 to 6,610 in 1955.

The birth rate (15.8) is higher than last year (15.0) and higher than that for England and Wales (15.0).

The death rate (13.0) is higher than last year (11.9) and higher than for England and Wales (11.7).

The chief causes of death are from diseases associated with elderly people.

The scheme for the sewering of New Packington has been commenced.

53 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 362 houses completed during the post-war period.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 384 and the number of applications received during the year, 76.

With respect to general housing conditions, the position is rapidly deteriorating, due to the large proportion of old property in the area.

Only 71 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, 2 Scarlet Fever, 66 Measles, 1 Pneumonia, 1 Puerperal Pyrexia and 1 Erysipelas.

The response to the campaign for immunisation against diphtheria was disappointing, and the number receiving primary immunisation has fallen, although there has been an increase in the numbers receiving the "booster" dose, and there still must be a dangerously high percentage of the school population susceptible to diphtheria.

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, and no cases were removed from the Register.

I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department of the County and to Dr. Mair and his staff in the Public Health Laboratory at Groby Road, Leicester, for their help and co-operation.

Finally, I must thank Mr. T. H. Farrell, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. H. H. Ford, Additional Sanitary Inspector, for their invaluable help during the year and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	6,162 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ..	6,610
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,102
Rateable Value (at 31/12/55)	£42,175
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£162
Comparability factor—Births	0.99
Deaths	0.99

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are :—Agriculture, Biscuit making, Dairies, Soap Manufacturing and Glove Manufacturing. A number of workers engaged in Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking are residents in the town. There are also two Public Parks and an Open-air Swimming Bath in the Town. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	42	63	105
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	43	63	106

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.0
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.8
England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	15.0

STILL BIRTHS :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1

Total Live and Stillbirths	107
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	9.3
England and Wales Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	23.1

DEATHS :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
	50	37	87

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.0
England and Wales Death Rate per 1,000 population ..	11.7

Causes of Death in 1955

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ..	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	7	2	9
Coronary disease, angina	9	1	10
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2
Other heart disease	13	12	25
Other circulatory disease	0	1	1
Influenza	0	1	1
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Congenital malformations	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	3	0	3
	50	37	87

Death Rate from Total Maternal Causes per 1,000 Live and Still Births—0. (England and Wales 0.64).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	5	2	7

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—66.0 per 1,000 Live Births. (England and Wales)—24.9 per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	2	5

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age: 47.1
(England and Wales)—17.3

Chief Causes of Death in 1955 :—

Diseases of Heart and Circulation ..	47
Malignant Neoplasm (all forms)	10

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

HOSPITALS

All hospitals are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of a few private Maternity and Nursing Homes. The County Homes for aged and infirm people are under the County Council. When they become ill they are the responsibility of the Hospital Board.

The only hospital in the area is the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and District Hospital under the Leicester No. 2 Hospital Management Committee.

The hospital has accommodation for 23 patients, including 8 in the maternity unit.

During 1955, 742 were admitted and there were 208 births. Over 400 operations were performed. In the Out-Patients' Department, 5,000 patients were treated, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

The " waiting list " of patients awaiting admission is lower than at any time in the past.

Construction of the new Maternity Unit commenced November 1st, 1955, and the work should be completed by the end of 1956.

The building which will be pleasantly situated, will provide for five additional maternity beds and have accommodation for staff on the ground floor. Adaptations to existing accommodation will give improved sanitary and sterilizing facilities, a new labour ward, clinical room, and an enlarged nursery.

The hospital suffered a sad loss in the tragic death of Dr. M. G. Baker.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby. An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, and the Tuberculosis Clinic at Markfield Sanatorium. The Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The County Council is responsible for all ambulance facilities in the County. Colliery accidents are removed by Ambulances provided by the National Coal Board stationed at Nailstone Colliery and Moira Colliery.

NURSING IN THE HOME

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the home is under the County Council. A Diabetic Health Visitor attends the Clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, and visits the patients in their homes.

HEALTH VISITING

This work is provided, as before, by the County Council, and is ably carried out in the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester

The examinations performed on behalf of the District in the County Laboratory are as follows :—

Throat and Nose Swabs	2
Faeces and Urine	7
Sputa	7
Blood	1
Miscellaneous	5
Total	22

Generally there is co-operation between the local authority and the services provided by the Executive Council and the Hospital Board, and the tendency is towards closer integration.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The water is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board and is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Particulars of Water Supply to Dwelling Houses in the District—

Internal Mains Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 2,030. Estimated Population, 6,492.

Mains Water from External Standpipes—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 63. Estimated Population, 252.

Well Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 9. Estimated Population, 36.

Apart from a few isolated dwellings, the whole of the urban area is supplied with water from the public mains.

Number of cases in which Pipe supply was substituted for Well Water—0.

No wells were closed or cleansed, and no samples of well water taken for analysis.

Sewage Disposal.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—Nil.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st December, 1955—48 (estimated).

Apart from New Packington, the whole district is well sewered.

The scheme for the sewerage of New Packington, 28 houses, received the consent of the Ministry and work commenced in December.

Closet Accommodation

Total number in District on 31st December, 1955 (Estimated)—

(*a*)	Privies	33
(*b*)	Pail closets	25
(*c*)	Water closets	2,044

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year :—

(*a*)	Privies	0
(*b*)	Pail closets	2

No grant is made towards the cost of conversion.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year : Nil.

Earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools are cleansed by Council workmen, and disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

Pail closets are emptied weekly, and contents disposed of in the same way.

Public Cleansing

Domestic refuse is removed weekly by direct labour over the whole area by one Dennis refuse vehicle, and the contents disposed of to two controlled tips.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(*a*)	Total number of complaints received	724
(*b*)	Total number of premises at which defects or nuisances were dealt with	410
(*c*)	Total number of defects or nuisances dealt with	818

Particu'ars of Inspections Made

	Number of Inspections
Animal Keeping	15
Bakehouses	9
Dairies	34
Drainage Works	175
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	425
Food Premises	143
Offensive Trades	2
Refuse Collection and Disposal ..	196
Rodent Control	240
Schools	5
Shops	47
Slaughter-houses	417
Smoke Observations	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	16
Verminous and Dirty Premises	5
Water Supplies	72
Workshops, outworkers, etc.	105
Other Inspections	28
Total	1938

Notices

Preliminary Notices

	Housing	*Public Heath*
Outstanding on 1st January, 1955	28	35
Issued during year	27	48
Complied with during year	41	64
Statutory action necessary	0	0
Outstanding 31st December, 1955	14	19

Statutory Notices

Statutory Notices, 2 Summary action, Nil.

Shops

Particulars of action taken during the year under the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950.

	Outstanding 1st Jan., 1955	*Defects found*	*Defects remedied*	*Outstanding 31st Dec., 1955*
Sanitary Conveniences	1	5	3	3
Temperature	0	2	2	0
Ventilation	0	1	1	0
Washing Facilities	0	1	1	0
Lighting	0	1	1	0
Facilities for taking Meals	0	0	0	0

Regulated Buildings.

Class of Building	*No. in District*	*No. of Inspections*	*Action Taken*	*General Conditions*
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	4	16	0	satisfactory
Offensive Trades	1	2	0	satisfactory

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Two houses were found infested, and disinfected with D.D.T. by means of zaldezide spray and fumigator, carried out by local authority.

To ensure that tenants' belongings are vermin free before removal to a Council house, pre-removal inspection is carried out by the Housing Manager.

Periodic inspection undertaken for the supervision of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

The Pet Animal Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Rag Flock and other Filling Material Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Inspection of district, including baiting of public sewers. Treatment of infested premises. One part-time Rodent Operator.

Schools

No action taken.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public

No. in Area :—

(*a*)	Publicly owned	1
(*b*)	Privately owned	0
No. of Inspections		56

SECTION D

Housing

Houses completed during the year.

	Prefab. Permanent Type	*Permanent Type*	*Aver. Cost per House*	*Aver. Rent inclusive or exclusive of Rates*
Local Authority	Nil	6	£1,600	27/6 inclusive
By Private Enterprise	Nil	47	£2,500	All Owner occupiers

Houses in course of erection at end of year :

By Local Authority	Nil	60
By Private Enterprise	Nil	30

Total number of Post-War Houses completed

By Local Authority	260
By Private Enterprise	102

Applications for Council Houses

Total number at end of year	384
Applications received during the year	76

Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding :

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	Nil
Number of families dwelling therein	Nil
Number of persons dwelling therein	Nil
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	Nil
Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	Nil

The position with respect to general house conditions is rapidly deteriorating due to large proportion of old property in the district.

Housing Summary.

Total number of houses occupied in District	2,102
Total number of Council Houses occupied in District ..	423

Housing Act, 1949

Number of Applications for reconditioning grants ..	16
Number of Applications approved	10
Number of Applications refused	6

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered :—

(*a*) Manufacture and retail	0
(*b*) Manufacture only	0
(*c*) Retail only	21
Number of Samples taken	0

Results of Samples :—

Grade 1—0 Grade 2—0
Grade 3—0 Grade 4—0

Number of Samples of " Lollies " taken	0
Results satisfactory	0

Milk Supply

Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) and Distributors (Section 8 Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949) :—

Number on Register—Dairies	4
Distributors	11
Number of Inspections made	34
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	0
Number of contraventions found during year ..	5
Number of contraventions remedied during year ..	5
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1955	0

Bacteriological Milk Samples :

None taken by Urban District Council.
All samples are taken by the County Council.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued :—

Dealers Licences—Pasteurised	3
Sterilised	1
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised	3
Sterilised	Nil

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued :—

Dealers' Licences	3
Supplementary Licences	3

Meat and Other Foods

No. of Slaughter Houses in Area	2
No. of Animals slaughtered elsewhere	Nil
No. of Animals examined elsewhere	Nil
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter ..	4048
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	Nil
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION

Summary of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected at the Two Private Slaughterhouses in the District

	Cows	Bulls	H'fers	Steers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Jan.	56	1	22	28	2	61	125	295
Feb.	29	1	16	31	—	73	149	299
Mar.	28	1	15	38	2	35	160	279
April	21	—	13	31	9	20	125	219
May	45	2	18	30	2	30	138	265
June	25	1	28	21	—	111	78	264
July	19	—	31	12	1	177	70	310
Aug.	13	—	44	27	1	257	72	414
Sept.	28	—	39	17	—	200	107	391
Oct.	48	1	31	49	1	308	126	564
Nov.	26	—	42	26	1	207	111	413
Dec.	16	—	35	17	—	114	153	335
	354	7	334	327	19	1593	1414	4048

Incidence of Disease Found

	No. Killed	Tuberculosis	Other Disease
Cows	354	118 or 33%	83 or 21%
Other Beasts ..	668	132 or 20%	96 or 15%
Calves	19	1 or 5%	1 or 5%
Sheep	1593	Nil	248 or 15%
Pigs	1414	66 or 5%	58 or 4%

Summary of Diseases found and parts of animals affected

Disease	Part affected	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Tuberculosis ..	Whole carcase and organs	8	1	1	—
,, ..	Forequarters or parts	18	—	—	—
,, ..	Hindquarters or parts	4	—	—	—
,, ..	Heads	125	—	57	—
,, ..	Lungs	230	—	46	—
,, ..	Livers	132	—	46	—
,, ..	Hearts	12	—	46	—
,, ..	Melts	21	—	46	—
,, ..	Skirts	15	—	—	—
,, ..	Udder	4	—	—	—
,, ..	Mesenteries	52	—	30	—
Emphysema ..	Lungs	6	—	—	—
Mastitis ..	Udder	6	—	—	—
Abscesses ..	Heads	7	—	3	—
,, ..	Lungs	4	—	—	—
,, ..	Livers	47	—	—	2
Bruising & Injury	Part Carcase	3	—	1	—
Imperfect Bleeding	Whole carcase and organs	—	—	—	1
Immaturity ..	Whole carcase and organs	—	1	—	—
Oedema ..	Part Hindquarters ..	2	—	—	—
Arthritis ..	Part Hindquarters ..	—	—	2	—
Actinomycosis ..	Heads	4	—	—	—
Telangiectasis ..	Livers	24	—	—	—
Parasitic ..	Lungs	12	—	8	49
,, ..	Livers	48	—	14	230
Cirrhosis ..	Livers	38	—	15	—
Pneumonia ..	Lungs	8	—	14	12
Inflammation ..	Lungs and Hearts ..	2	—	26	—
,, ..	Livers	—	—	26	—

Weight of Carcases and Offal Condemned

	Tons	*cwts.*	*qtrs.*	*lbs.*
Tuberculosis ..	8	—	3	5
Other Disease	1	3	3	8
	9	4	2	13

Unsound Food

The following is an abbreviated list of the items of food found to be unfit for consumption.

Fruit	90 tins	Mixed Nuts and Fruit	106 packets
Tomatoes	80 „	Shrimps	1 jar
Vegetables	3 „	Salad Cream	1 „
Salmon	12 „	Calves Tongues	1 „
Pilchards	1 „	Lard	8 lbs.
Baby Foods	4 „	Butter	7 lbs.
Beef Loaf	4 „	Lobsters	24 „
Corned Beef	6 „	Biscuits	11½ „
Ox Tongue	5 „	Chopped Ham	1 tin
Steak	3 „	Bread	1 loaf
Stewed Veal	9 „		

An estimated weight of 450 lbs.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc. 6

Number of Inspections 74

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale

Number of Inspections 57

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953

Disease	*Final numbers after correction*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Measles	66	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
	71	1	0

Analysis Under Age Groups according to Registrar General's Return 118d

Age Period	*Scarlet Fever*	*Measles*	*Erysipelas*
Under 1 year	0	0	0
1—2	0	9	0
3—4	1	10	0
5—9	1	46	0
10—14	0	1	0
15—24	0	0	0
25 and over	0	0	1
Total ..	2	66	1

Age Period	*Pneumonia*	*Puerperal Pyrexia*
Under 5 years	0	0
5—14	0	0
15—44	0	1
45—64	0	0
65 and over	1	0
Age unknown	0	0
Total	1	1

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of Children who were immunised during the period 1st January—31st December, 1955

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5 1950	6 1949	7 1948	8 1947	9 1946	Total
Primary Immunisation	4	38	6	0	0	1	2	2	–	–	53
Booster Dose	–	–	–	–	2	45	2	3	–	1	53

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Tuberculosis Register for the year 1955

	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Total*
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	
No. of cases on the Register at the commencement of year ..	12	10	4	1	27
No. of cases notified during the year ..	0	0	0	0	0
No. of cases added other than by formal notification	1	0	0	0	1
No. of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	13	10	4	1	28

No cases removed from Register.

There is free co-operation between the Local Authority and the Chest Physician, and every assistance is given in the ascertainment of contacts, rehousing and employment. A special clinic for contacts has been working very satisfactorily, and general practitioners have availed themselves fully of X-ray facilities.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Resumé of Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1955, previously sent to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	*No. on Register*	*Inspections*	*Written notices*
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	11	3
Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	32	52	5
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	8	43	0
Total	45	106	8

2.—Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars	*Number of cases in which defects were found*	
	Found	*Remedied*
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—		
(*a*) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	2
(*b*) Not separate for sexes ..	1	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1
Total	6	4

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	*No. of Outworkers in August List required by Sec.* 110
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets	1